

REMARKS

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-4 and 6-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rebeaud in view of Bean.

Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1 and 6 have been combined by this Amendment to more precisely define the invention.

The Examiner is contending that the combination of Rebeaud and Bean make obvious the claimed invention. This contention has overlooked the fact that the claimed apparatus is concerned with supplying a silk screen printing machine with sheet materials while Rebeaud is limited to a device for positioning sheet elements in a machine and Bean is limited to a device for offset stacking of sets of sheets or pamphlets. These machines are not concerned with the same problem that the applicant has confronted and it is not seen how these references can be combined without the applicants application.

The Rebeaud patent system uses grippers 22 for positioning sheet elements. These grippers 22 are joined to a strip 21 which is connected to a telescopic lever 33, 34, 35 and to lever 31 which is connected to a disc 30. The disc 30 permits the rotation of the lever 31 and permits the rotation of the grippers 22. In this manner, the grippers 22 can block the paper on the table with a movement that is not orthogonal to the tray and the paper.

The Rebeaud grippers 22 can cause misalignment of the paper with respect to the longitudinal direction during the blocking of the paper on the tray. In addition, the grippers 22 need to be adjusted to handle papers having different thickness. The claims of the present application point out a longitudinal registration means 60 and a transverse registering means (40) which

include a support shaft (30) suitable for supporting the pressure operated locking means (50) and fixed to the supply table (20) which carries supports (31) which are fixed to the shaft (30). This arrangement is not suggested by Rebeaud which fails to suggest any device having pressure operated locking means to hold the sheets in position.

The Bean patent describes a stacker device which uses jogger openings and arms to position but not to hold in place the sets of sheets or pamphlets that are fed to the machine. At col. 6, lines 13-34, Bean discloses that the jogger arms only function by the action of the flat faces 76 which act as "paper stop means". A stop does not "lock" the sheet in place as does element 50 which claim 1 points out to be adapted "for locking the sheet (12) on the supply table (20)". The function of "locking" is not suggested by the function of "stopping" which only restricts motion past the stopping element. "Stopping" does not hold anything in place. The fact that Bean uses a cylinder to activate the paper stop does not mean that Bean suggests any type of a "lock" system. The applicants' device discloses pressure elements that act directly on the sheet materials, independently of the thickness of the paper. This is a real and substantial advantage because sheets of different thicknesses can be accommodated without adjustment of the machine. For these reasons, it is believed to be apparent that there is no proper basis on which Bean and Rebaud can be combined.

The Examiner's comments with regard to the particular embodiments of claim 2-7 have been noted. The Examiner's assertion on page 3, line 10 as to the "locking means of Bean" is traversed as Bean only discloses a "stop" and does not disclose a locking means. Amended claim 1 points out that the locking means (50) has pressure elements (51) which are activated by pressurized air and that each of these pressure elements are housed in a support (31). This type of arrangement is

not made obvious by the gripper 22 structure of Rebaud or the jogger arms 62 with the flat faces 76 of Bean. For these reasons, it is requested that this ground of rejection be withdrawn.

An early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted



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